



Welcome to the August edition of the Watertown Animal Hospital monthly newsletter!

This month is dedicated to essential preventative care and health awareness initiatives for your furry friends. Inside this edition, you can look forward to:

- **National Immunization Awareness Month:** Protecting your pet with core vaccination checklists for dogs and cats.
- **Itchy Pet Awareness & Skin Health:** Recognizing signs of flea allergies and atopic dermatitis to keep your pet comfortable.
- **Safety & Routine Transitions:** Advice for microchip registration, stress-free cat travel, and managing back-to-school separation anxiety.
- **Current Promotions**
- **Check the Chip Day - August 15th, 2026**

Our goal is to foster a stronger partnership between our team and you. We hope you enjoy this issue!



National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Pet Immunization Month! Staying current on vaccinations is the most effective way to protect your pet from dangerous diseases. It is one of the most critical steps you can take to ensure their long-term health and well-being, as vaccines provide vital protection against serious, and often fatal, infectious diseases. At Watertown Animal Hospital, we are dedicated to keeping all our feline and canine friends safe through proactive preventive care. Here is a quick reference checklist of core vaccinations:

- Dogs: Rabies, DHPP (Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza). Additionally, the Leptospirosis vaccine has been upgraded to a core series for dogs at Watertown Animal Hospital since 2024, and it is highly recommended to add this vaccine to your dog's annual wellness regimen.
- **Lyme Vaccines & Blood Parasite Testing for Canines:** In Northern New York, ticks become active as soon as ground temperatures rise above freezing, increasing the risk of exposure to serious vector-borne illnesses. We strongly recommend a proactive, dual-layered approach to protect your dog using a multi-modal approach with preventatives and vaccinations:
 - a. **Lyme Vaccination:** Highly recommended for dogs in our region, the Vanguard® crLyme vaccine can be administered to healthy puppies and dogs starting at 8 weeks of age. It is designed to offer broad protection against diverse bacterial strains by reacting with more than 25 different variants, providing 15 months of immunity. Additionally, this vaccine is backed by the Zoetis Petcare Immunization Support Guarantee.
 - b. **Annual Blood Parasite Testing:** Yearly diagnostic screening (such as the SNAP 4Dx test) is critical to monitor for heartworm disease and tick-borne pathogens including Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis. Early screening helps detect subclinical infections before clinical signs like fever, lethargy, or shifting leg lameness manifest.
- Cats: Rabies, FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia). Ensuring your feline companions are up-to-date with their Rabies vaccine is required by law, as it is a critical matter of public safety due to a recent rise in local Rabies activity with bats being known carriers and the increase in household occurrences.

Rabies: A Growing Concern

Recently, local and state health departments have noted a rise in Rabies activity within our community and surrounding areas. Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the central nervous system, and it is almost always fatal once clinical signs appear. It is also a zoonotic disease, meaning it can be transmitted from animals to humans, making vaccination not just a matter of pet health, but of public safety. Ensure your feline and canine companions are up-to-date with their Rabies vaccine as required by law.

Itchy Pet Awareness Month

Skin issues are the #1 reason for vet visits. Insect activity during the summer months can cause significant discomfort and skin irritation, with ticks, gnats, and biting flies posing notable seasonal health risks. Look for signs such as scratching, redness, thinning fur, or skin lesions, which can indicate flea allergies, atopic dermatitis, or "fly strike" particularly on a pet's ears.

To help your pet find relief and ensure they stay protected, we strongly recommend keeping all pets on year-round flea, tick, and parasite preventatives. For our feline friends, products like NexGard® COMBO offer comprehensive protection against various parasites.

Keep your pet comfortable by booking a skin-consultation or contacting our office today to discuss multi-modal management options.

National Check the Chip Day (August 15)

Is your contact info current? Use this day to update your pet's microchip registration information. A current chip is the best way to ensure your pet is returned safely. We strongly advocate for all pets to be microchipped, as this significantly increases the chances of a happy reunion should your pet ever become lost.

Our licensed veterinary technicians are available to perform microchipping services, provided your pet is current on their annual exam. Information is available on our current microchipping service and registration—please call to speak with a client care representative or technician to ask questions and/or book an appointment.

National Bring Your Cat to the Vet Day (August 22)

Stress-free feline visits are possible!

1. Leave the carrier out so it's a familiar bed.
2. Use calming pheromones like Feliway.
3. Reward your cat with high-value treats during their exam.

Current Promotions

- Buy ONE bag of VeggieDent Chews - Get a \$10 rebate!
- Buy ONE bottle of Aquadent Dental Solution - Get \$5 rebate!
- Buy 1 Dose of Bravecto® Chewable for pets under 18 months of age, Get \$20 Instant Rebate
- Bravecto® 1-Month for pets under 6 months of age, Get \$10 Instant Rebate (Great for our puppies! \$10 EACH dose up to 1 dose / month for 3 months)
 - Buy 12 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$20 Instant Rebate
 - Buy 6 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$5 Instant Rebate
 - Buy 4 Doses of Bravecto® Brand Products, Get \$45 Instant Rebate
 - Buy 2 Doses of Bravecto® Brand Products, Get \$20 Instant Rebate
- Buy 2 Doses of Bravecto® and 6 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$40 Instant Rebate
 - Buy 4 Doses of Bravecto® and 12 Doses of Sentinel® Brand Products, Get \$100 Instant Rebate
- Buy 12 doses of HEARTGARD® Plus (ivermectin/pyrantel), get a \$15 instant rebate
 - Buy 12 doses of NexGard® COMBO (feline) and get a \$50 instant rebate.
- Get a \$10 rebate with your first purchase of a Thunderease or Feliway product!

Ask our front desk for details. Promotions valid while supplies last.

 **Happy patients at Watertown Animal Hospital** 



Our Services

Exams • Vaccinations • Dentistry • General Surgery • Diagnostic Imaging • Parasite Prevention • Boarding • In-House Lab Diagnostics • Large Animal Services

Call us at 315-788-1711 or visit our website

www.watertownpetcare.com

Watertown Animal Hospital

1445 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601

Hours

Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Closed Sundays

Watertown Animal Hospital — Compassionate care for the pets you love!

Wellness Package survey

A Wellness Package is an alternative, more affordable way to ensure your pet gets the best preventative work-up we can offer. It works like a payment plan- the cost for a full year of recommended preventative services for your pet (to include vaccines, exams, and baseline labwork) is totalled, discounted, then broken down into smaller payment options. This is something that is practiced at other vet clinics in the area, and we would like to know from you, our clients, if this is a service you may be interested in seeing here. If you would please take some time, we would very much appreciate your feedback by responding to this voluntary survey:

1. Would you be interested in the availability of a Wellness Package at the Watertown Animal Hospital?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No- please leave a comment below and skip the following questions
 - c. Unsure

Comments/questions/concerns:

2. What services would you want included in these plans?
 - ☐ Annual Exams
 - ☐ Baseline labs (bloodwork, urine, fecal)
 - ☐ Vaccines
 - ☐ Preventative medications (i.e. Bravecto and Sentinel)
3. What would you be willing to pay every month for this service?
 - a. Less than \$50
 - b. \$50-\$150
 - c. More than \$150

Thank you so much for your input! Please feel free to leave your name and account phone number. Have a wonderful day!

Name: _____

Account Phone number: _____

Please send this survey back via **email** (csr@watertownpetcare.com). **Mail/stop in:** 1445 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601. Or **fax:** 315-788-2930